

Economic Inequalities, Healthcare Inequalities: Characteristics Associated with Joint Pain Medication Access among Adults Over 50

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Objective

- The experience of pain is a widespread phenomenon among adults, especially older adults, and entails high costs to both individuals and society.
- The objective of the current research is to determine if the ability to pay and supplementary insurance are factors associated with pain medication among individuals over 50.

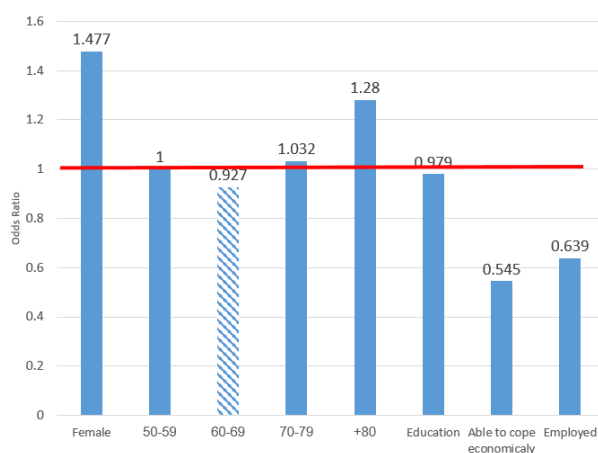
Methods

Data came from the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 5. The sample included 64,281 individuals 50+ from nineteen European countries and Israel.

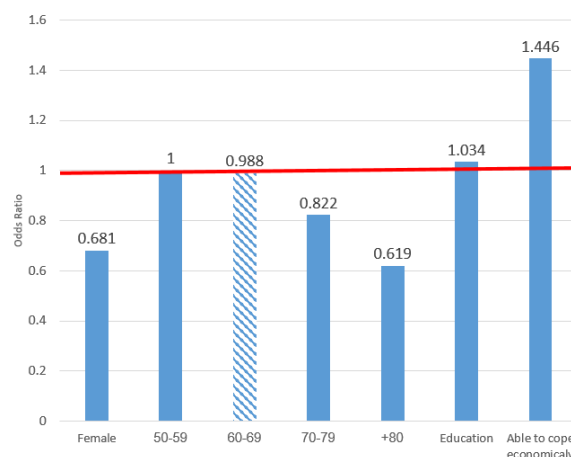
Results

- Prevalence of pain was similar among different age groups, and more women reported joint pain.
- Among those in pain, about 21.5% of the individuals reported mild pain, 52.9% moderate and 26% severe pain.
- Regarding location, back pain was the most common location, reported by 64.3% individuals that reported joint pain.

Factors associated with probability of pain, persons aged 50+



Factors associated with probability of taking pain medication, persons aged 50+



Main Points

- Among individuals over 50 in Europe income is strongly associated with taking pain medication and that there is economic inequity in medication access.
- Access to medication deserves attention from healthcare workers and policy makers. Although pain management is multifaceted, prescription medication is essential in pain management.
- There is economic inequity in health access among individuals over 50.